Target for bringing Agricultural Land under Drip Irrigation

1227. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated target for bringing agricultural land under drip irrigation in the country during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of hectares of land likely to be brought under drip irrigation in Gujarat State during the above period; and

(d) the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) During 1995-96, and area of 30734 ha. is proposed to be brought under drip irrigation in the country.

(c) An area of 1481 hectare is to be brought under drip irrigation in Gujarat State.

(d) The District-wise area targetted in Gujarat under drip irrigation is as given below:

S.N	. District	Area(ha.)
1.	Ahmedabad	75
2.	Amreli	95
3.	Kutch	100
4.	Kheda	80
5.	Gandhi nagar	75
6.	Jamnagar	76
7.	Junagadh	125
8.	Panchimahal	65
9.	Banaskantha	50
10.	Bharuch	60
11.	Bhavnagar	125
12.	Mehsana	75
13.	Rajkot	125
14.	Vadodara	90
15.	Valsad/Dang	70
16.	Sabarkantha	70
17.	Surat	75
18.	Surendranagar	50
	Tota 1:	1481

Newspaper Report on Steel Sale Racket

1228. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will tne Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a news-item in Observer of 30th June, 1995 regarding Steel sale racket at BSP;

(b) if so, the category-wise quantum of steel involved and its value;

(c) the manner in which the pilferred quantities have been reflected in closing stocks and balance sheet in view of the production of these categories in these years, and there being no sale to the extent of pilferage;

(d) the reasons for not noticing such shortage for so long by the Bokaro Steel Plant authorities;

(e) whether any officials from the Bokaro Steel Plant have been made accountable and the action taken against them;

(f) whether similar situation have been noticed in other steel plants of SAIL also; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken to prevent recurrence of such situation in the plants of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir, (b) the news-item relates to the theft of steel materials from Bokaro Steel Plant on 4/5.3.93 which was loaded in 4 trucks and the trucks were intercepted by the villagers of Mahuar village outside the plant perimeter wall. The weight of material (4 out slabs and 2 steel castings) involved in the above theft case is approximately 43 tonnes, and the value of the same is Rs. 3.38 lakhs.

(c) and (d) For the purpose of preparation of accounts, including balance sheet, category-wise stocks, as per physical verification is adopted. Any shortage/surplus arising on reconcilation is duly adjusted in the accounts.

(e) 7 workmen of Bokaro Steel Plant have been arrested recently by the CBI and they all have since been suspended.

(f) while there have been petty/stray incidents of thefts noticed in other steel plants of SAIL, however the *modus operandi* varies from place to place and case to case.

(g) various steps are taken/being taken in (he plants of SAIL to prevent occurrence of theft cases, such as restriction in the number of exit points, lightning of perimeter security, sufficient lighting at all important locations, intensified patrolling and regular night checks, stringent procedures followed to have check on the despatch of materials at every stage etc.

Molasses Decontrol Order

1229. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the promulgation of Molasses Decontrol Order in 1993 there have been severe imbalance in many. States, affecting the working of alcohol-based industries like cattle/poultry feed and potable alcohol;

(b) whether many States did not cooperate with the decontrol policy in letter and spirit for fear of losing excise revenue; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Working Group of State Excise Ministers and whether the Centre is keen to implement the same and what implications these recommendations will have on the prohibition policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and-(b) The Molasses Control Order, 1961 and the Ethyl Alcohol (Price Control), Order, 1971 were rescinded oh the 10th June, 1993, with a view to remove control on. prices and distribution of Molasses and the prices of alcohol. However, some of the States continued controlling the prices and distribution of both the products under State Laws, on the plea of safeguarding their excise revenues. After decontrol, the prices of molasses and alcohol increased adversely affecting the manufacturing operations of the industry dependent on molasses like alcohol-based chemical industry and cattle and poultry feed manufacturing units.

(c) The main recommendations of the Working Group of State Excise Ministers on Molasses and Alcohol are for partial distribution control on molasses and alcohol and for policy consensus among different states to tackle the problems arising after decontrol The report of the Working Group was recently placed before the Excise Minister Conference. The views of the States on the recommendations of the Working Group are being examined alongwith their legal implications.

Embezzlement of Fertilizers

1230. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stockist of Paradeep Phosphates Limited at Muzzafarpur in Bihar was found involved in the embezzlement of fertilizers in November last year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the stockist had been appointed by the company without any proper verification of his antecedent;

(c) whether the CBI has also registered two cases related to the embezzlement of fertilizers worth about Rs. 25 million; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stockist was appointed on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee constituted for the purpose which had inspected the party's godown before making the recommendation.

(c) and (d) The CBI has registered a case on 24th November, 1994 against M/s. Vijay Kumar for defalcation of about 2850 MT of DAP at Muzzaffarpur worth about 2.59 crores.

Programme of Genetic Improvement of Milching Animals in Bihar

1231. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it **is** a fact that the entire population of cows and buffalows is being covered under the programme of genetic